

**Listing of the Claims**

Please cancel claims 21 and 27-31.

15. (Previously amended) A process for the oxidation of a starch, comprising
- i. treating a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin, based on dry substance of the starch, with an alkali metal hypochlorite, at a pH between 6.5 and 8.5 to form an oxidized starch product, and
  - ii. after oxidation is complete, subjecting the oxidized starch product to an alkaline treatment, wherein the alkaline treatment comprises keeping the oxidized starch product at a temperature of 20-50°C and a pH higher than 10, for at least 15 minutes.
16. (Original) A process according to claim 15, wherein the alkaline treatment lasts at least at least 30 minutes, preferably at least 60 minutes.
17. (Original) A process according to claim 15, wherein the alkaline treatment lasts at least at least 60 minutes.
18. (Original) A process according to claim 15, wherein the alkaline treatment is performed at a pH higher than 10.5.
19. (Original) A process according to claim 15, wherein the alkali metal hypochlorite is sodium hypochlorite.
20. (Original) A process according to claim 15, wherein the oxidized starch

product is treated with the alkali metal hypochlorite at a pH between 6.5 and 8.5.

21-31.           Cancelled

32.     (Previously added)   A process for the oxidation of a starch, comprising
- i.       treating a root or tuber starch comprising at least 95 wt.% of amylopectin, based on dry substance of the starch, with an alkali metal hypochlorite, at a pH between 6.5 and 8.5 to form an oxidized starch product, wherein the alkali metal hypochlorite is in an amount between 0.001 and 0.4 moles per mole of starch; and
  - ii.      after oxidation is complete, subjecting the oxidized starch product to an alkaline treatment, wherein the alkaline treatment comprises keeping the oxidized starch product at a temperature of 20-50°C and a pH higher than 10, for at least 15 minutes.